



February 29, 2016

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## HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 35

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*Introduced by: Moseley*

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February 29, 2016, read first time and referred to Committee on Government and Regulatory Reform.

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A HOUSE RESOLUTION expressing opposition to the extension of disastrous trade policies.

*Whereas, For the past 25 years, the United States' trade deals have been corporate-driven, incorporating rules that skew benefits to economic elites while requiring working families to bear the brunt of such policies;*

*Whereas, The growing trade deficits, driven by the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), China's ascension to the World Trade Organization, and the United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement, have displaced 700,000 jobs, 3.2 million jobs, and 75,000 jobs respectively;*

*Whereas, United States employment in manufacturing*



*dropped by 5 million from 2000 to 2015;*

*Whereas, Indiana's poverty rate is 14.6 percent for all ages which requires the expenditure of limited public funds to assist families in crisis;*

*Whereas, Jobs lost due to trade devastate families and entire communities and can permanently reduce lifetime earnings for hundreds of thousands of workers;*

*Whereas, The long decline of the American manufacturing base, exacerbated by bad trade policies that reward outsourcing, has undermined our economic security and poses a direct threat to our national security;*

*Whereas, The offshoring of manufacturing and service jobs deprives local and state governments of sorely needed revenues, jeopardizing the livelihoods of millions of public servants as well as construction workers whose jobs depend on infrastructure building, repair, and maintenance;*

*Whereas, Under NAFTA-style trade rules, the United States' annual trade deficit has increased dramatically from \$70 billion in 1993, the year before NAFTA went into effect, to more than \$508 billion in 2014;*

*Whereas, The disproportionate voice of powerful global corporations in the formation of United States "free trade" agreements has advanced an agenda that undermines the public interest and threatens democracy;*

*Whereas, NAFTA and all but two of the United States' trade deals that followed it include special legal rights for foreign investors, known as "investor-to-state dispute settlement" (ISDS), that allow foreign firms to bypass state and federal courts to challenge state and local laws, regulations, and administrative and judicial decisions in international tribunals;*

*Whereas, The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) is likely to include provisions locking in monopoly protections for expensive specialty drugs called biologics and constrict the*



*government's ability to limit spending on drugs, potentially increasing drug costs for the government and all Americans;*

*Whereas, Foreign investors have already used NAFTA's ISDS provisions to challenge decisions regarding local building permits, environmental regulations, state bans on toxic chemicals, and decisions of state courts;*

*Whereas, Climate change and environmental degradation threaten communities across the globe, and ISDS provisions in the TPP may expose nations enacting policies to fight climate change to ISDS cases that undermine these efforts;*

*Whereas, Promoting economic growth with equity in Indiana requires an approach that reforms the entire trade negotiation process to ensure that voices of workers, farmers, small businesses, families, and communities are heard and their interests addressed;*

*Whereas, The TPP has been negotiated in secret, effectively shutting state and local governments out of the process, limiting our ability to influence its rules to ensure the people of Indiana can participate in the benefits of trade;*

*Whereas, Given the enactment of fast track trade negotiating authority, states, localities, and their citizens will have no opportunity to correct shortcomings in the TPP since its text will not be made public until it is final and no longer can be improved; and*

*Whereas, Repeating old mistakes in negotiating new trade agreements such as the TPP represents a missed opportunity to strengthen our economy, reduce income inequality, and promote sustainable growth: Therefore,*

*Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the  
General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

- 1       SECTION 1. That the Indiana House of Representatives calls upon
- 2       our elected officials in the United States Senate and the House of
- 3       Representatives to oppose the TPP and any similar trade deals if they
- 4       fail to restructure the misguided and failed policies of the past.
- 5       SECTION 2. That the Indiana House of Representatives call upon



our elected officials in the United States Senate and House of Representatives to support new trade deals such as the TPP only if they will:

1. Protect and promote traditional state and local prerogatives and authority under our federal system, including ensuring that states and localities will not be required to comply with certain commitments, including any restrictions on preferences for local, state, or United States goods or services, without prior informed consent of the legislature or local law making bodies.
2. Ensure balanced trade and address the excess, job-killing United States trade deficit.
3. Include enforceable rules against currency manipulation which countries such as China and Japan have used to tilt the playing field in their favor.
4. Exclude investor-to-state dispute settlement and other provisions that favor foreign companies over domestic ones and undermine public choices.
5. Ensure that countries cannot undercut United States-based producers with weaker labor and environmental laws and enforcement.
6. Ensure that the United States will engage in robust enforcement of trade rules, including labor and environmental rules.
7. Include strong rule of origin to promote economic growth and job creation in the United States.
8. Promote high standards of protection for workplaces, products, and natural resources rather than promoting a race to the bottom.
9. Put the interests of people and the planet over the interests of private profit.
10. Ensure that collective bargaining will, and always continue to, be a voice for fair labor standards and practices in the workplace.

SECTION 3. That the Principal Clerk of the House of Representatives transmit a copy of this resolution to each member of the Indiana Congressional delegation.

